## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.    (Previously Presented)  A rule processing computer-based method comprising:

receiving user input to a processor-based computer for defining a computer-executable rule that is stored to a computer-readable medium, wherein when executed by the computer the computer-executable rule causes the computer to identify a target group of patients chosen from a group of existing patients;

receiving user input to the computer defining, in computer-readable information stored to a computer-readable medium, a computer-executable action to be taken by said computer concerning one or more patients within the target group of patients;

scheduling, in computer-readable information stored to a computer-readable medium, an execution time for the action;

processing, by the computer, a plurality of computer-based medical records against said computer-executable rule to determine one or more of said medical records that satisfy the rule, wherein each of the medical records contain at least a portion of a corresponding patient's medical history stored to computer-readable medium; and

initiating by the computer, in accordance with the scheduled execution time, the action concerning corresponding patients to which the determined one or more medical records that satisfy the rule relate.

2.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein said processing includes processing the medical records to determine which of the medical records define the existence of a selected condition.

3.    (Original)  The method of claim 2 wherein the selected condition concerns a medical condition of a patient.

4.    (Original)  The method of claim 2 wherein the selected condition concerns a physical criteria of a patient.

5.    (Original)  The method of claim 2 wherein the selected condition concerns a habit of a patient.

6.      (Original)  The method of claim 2 wherein the selected condition concerns an activity of a patient.

7.      (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein said action includes one or more of:

posting a HTML link for a patient;

posting a message for a patient;

providing a tool to a patient;

transmitting an email to a patient;

updating a patient's medical record;

transmitting a pop-up message to a patient;

recommending that a patient join a discussion board;

providing a patient with medical information;

providing a medical report to a patient;

providing a medical report to a third party;

executing a program; and

notifying a third party.

8.      (Original)  The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling the execution time includes specifying a single, non-recurring, execution time.

9.      (Original)  The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling the execution time includes specifying a plurality of non-recurring execution times.

10.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling the execution time includes specifying a recurring execution time.

11.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein said initiating the action in accordance with the scheduled execution time comprises initiating, on or after the execution time, the action concerning the corresponding patients to which the determined one or more medical records that satisfy the rule relate.

12.    (Previously Presented)  A rule processing computer-based method comprising:

determining by a computer, for a specific computer-executable rule that is stored to a computer-readable medium, a target group of patients, wherein said target group of patients comprise at least a subset of patients for whom a particular medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to medical records of the patients;

determining, for said specific computer-executable rule, an action to be initiated by the computer concerning one or more patients within the target group of patients whose respective medical records satisfy said specific computer-executable rule, wherein the action comprises communicating information to the one or more patients;

determining, for said specific computer-executable rule, an execution time for the action; and

initiating by the computer the action concerning the one or more patients within the target group of patients on or after the execution time.

13.    (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein the action includes one or more of:

posting a HTML link for a patient; posting a message for a patient; providing a tool to a patient;

transmitting an email to a patient;

updating a patient's medical record;

transmitting a pop-up message to a patient;

recommending that a patient join a discussion board;

providing a patient with medical information;

providing a medical report to a patient;

providing a medical report to a third party;

executing a program; and

notifying a third party.

14.    (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein the execution time is a single, non-recurring, execution time.

15.    (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein the execution time is a plurality of non-recurring execution times.

16.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein the execution time is a recurring execution time.

17.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 12 wherein the target group of patients is defined by processing the medical records to determine which of the medical records define the existence of a selected condition specified by the specific computer-executable rule.

18.     (Previously Presented)  A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

determine from computer-based medical records of patients for whom a particular medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to said computer-based medical records, a target group of said patients whose respective medical records satisfy a rule defined by the medical service provider;

determine an action to be taken concerning the determined target group of patients; and

schedule an execution time for the action to be taken concerning the determined target group of patients.

19.     (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for determining said target group of said patients whose respective medical records satisfy said rule include instructions for processing the medical records to determine which of the medical records define the existence of a selected condition specified by said rule.

20.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the selected condition concerns a medical condition of a patient.

21.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the selected condition concerns a physical criteria of a patient.

22.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the selected condition concerns a habit of a patient.

23.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the selected condition concerns an activity of a patient.

24.     (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the action comprises one or more of:

posting a HTML link for a patient;

posting a message for a patient;

providing a tool to a patient;

transmitting an email to a patient;

updating a patient's medical record;

transmitting a pop-up message to a patient;

recommending that a patient join a discussion board;

providing a patient with medical information;

providing a medical report to a patient;

providing a medical report to a third party;

executing a program; and

notifying a third party.

25.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for scheduling the execution time include instructions for specifying a single, non-recurring, execution time.

26.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for scheduling the execution time include instructions for specifying a plurality of non-recurring execution times.

27.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for scheduling the execution time include instructions for specify a recurring execution time.

28.     (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising instructions for executing the action concerning the determined target group of patients on or after the execution time.

29.    (Previously Presented)  A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

receive user input from a medical service provider for defining a computer-executable rule for identifying one or more patients of said medical service provider who satisfy said rule;

receive user input from said medical service provider for defining a computer-executable action to be taken concerning the identified one or more patients of said medical service provider who satisfy said rule;

determine, for the computer-executable rule, an execution time for the action;

process a plurality of computer-based medical records of patients for whom said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to said computer-based medical records against said computer-executable rule to identify one or more of said patients whose medical records satisfy the rule; and

initiate, on or after the execution time, the action concerning the one or more patients whose medical records satisfy the rule.

30.    (Currently Amended)  The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the [[the]] action includes one or more of:

posting a HTML link for a patient;

posting a message for a patient;

providing a tool to a patient;

transmitting an email to a patient;

updating a patient's medical record;

transmitting a pop-up message to a patient;

recommending that a patient join a discussion board;

providing a patient with medical information;

providing a medical report to a patient;

providing a medical report to a third party;

executing a program; and

notifying a third party.

31.      (Original) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the execution time is a single, non-recurring, execution time.

32.      (Original) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the execution time is a plurality of non-recurring execution times.

33.      (Original) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the execution time is a recurring execution time.

34.      (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the instructions for processing the medical records against said rule comprises instructions for determining which of the medical records define the existence of a condition specified by said rule.

35.      (Previously Presented) A rule processing computer-based method comprising:

processing, by a record processing module, a plurality of computer-based multi-portion medical records that are stored to a computer-readable repository and that contain medical history information for a plurality of patients for determining a target group of said plurality of patients whose medical records a particular medical service provider is authorized to access, wherein each portion of each of the multi-portion medical records is assigned a respective confidentiality level;

processing, by a rule processing engine, the medical records of the determined target group of patients against a computer-executable rule defined by said particular medical service provider to identify one or more of said target group of patients whose medical records satisfy the rule;

determining, by the rule processing engine, an action defined by said particular medical service provider for the rule, said determined action to be taken concerning said identified one or more patients within the target group of patients; and

scheduling, by the rule processing engine, an execution time for the action.

36.    (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising instructions that when executed by the processor cause the processor to:

determine, from a plurality of computer-based medical records stored to a computer-readable repository, ones of said computer-based medical records for which said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to said computer-based medical records, said determined ones of said computer-based medical records for which said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to said computer-based medical records forming a target group of computer-based medical records.

37.    (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the instructions for processing the medical records against said rule comprises instructions for processing said determined target group of computer-based medical records against said rule for determining which of the target group of computer-based medical records define the existence of a condition specified by said rule.

38.    (Previously Presented)  The computer program product of claim 36 wherein said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider access to a portion of information contained in said target group of computer-based medical records, and wherein the instructions for processing the medical records against said rule comprises instructions for processing said determined target group of computer-based medical records against said rule for determining from the portion of information contained in said target group of computer-based medical records which of the target group of computer-based medical records define the existence of a condition specified by said rule.

39.    (Previously Presented)  A system comprising:

a computer-readable repository for storing medical records;

an access key management system for managing access keys that grant a medical service provider authorized access to at least a portion of said medical records; and

a rule processing engine configured to:

a) receive input from a medical service provider to define a rule specifying criteria for selecting one or more of said medical records to which said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider with authorized access;

b) receive input specifying corresponding action to take when said rule is satisfied;

c) receive input specifying a corresponding execution time for performing said corresponding action;

d) process said medical records for which said medical service provider has an access key that grants the medical service provider with authorized access against said rule to determine one or more of said medical records that satisfy the rule; and

e) initiate, for patients to whom the determined one or more medical records that satisfy the rule relate, said corresponding action to be performed at said corresponding execution time.

40.    (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 39 wherein said corresponding action comprises communicating information to said patients to whom the determined one or more medical records that satisfy the rule relate.